

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**April 21, 2015**

***The City Council also sits as the Lemon Grove Housing Authority, Lemon Grove Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and Lemon Grove Successor Agency***

---

**Call to Order**

Members present: Mary Sessom, George Gastil, Jerry Jones, Jennifer Mendoza, and Racquel Vasquez.  
Members absent: None.

City Staff present: Graham Mitchell, City Manager; Carol Dick, Development Services Director; Daryn Drum, Division Fire Chief; Susan Garcia, City Clerk; James P. Lough, City Attorney; Mike James, Public Works Director; Lt. May, Sheriff's Department; Tamara O'Neal, Interim City Engineer; and Cathy Till, Finance Director.

**Presentations**

Graham Mitchell introduced Laureen Ryan Ojeda, Administrative Analyst.

Monica Emanuele, Marketing Department San Diego County Fair, provided a presentation of the 2015 Fair.

**Public Comment**

Brenda Hammond commented on the lighted crosswalk downtown and cell phone applications.

John L. Wood thanked Mayor Pro Tem Vasquez for the manner in which she led a recent City Council meeting and on planes landing at the San Diego Airport.

**1. Consent Calendar**

**A. Approval of City Council Minutes**

April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

**B. Ratification of Payment Demands**

**C. Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda**

**D. Claim Denial**

**E. Claim Denial**

**Action: Motion by Councilmember Gastil, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the Consent Calendar passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Sessom, Gastil, Jones, Vasquez**

**Abstain: Mendoza**

**2. Beekeeping**

Carol Dick reported that during a recent City Council meeting, several citizens spoke about an existing beekeeping activity and their positions regarding that activity. The activity is a current code enforcement case and was brought to the attention of the City Council during the public comment item.

City Council directed staff to prepare an agenda item that would allow the City Council to discuss potential guidelines for beekeeping activities in the City.

Beekeeping can be a commercial business or a backyard hobby and is commonly referred to as an apiary. This report does not consider large beekeeping operations that may be the sole use of a commercial site.

Safety and liability of beekeeping is a concern identified by insurance companies who advise homeowners of what needs to be considered with the hobby.

Ms. Dick noted that the Lemon Grove Municipal Code contains provisions in the Animal Keeping Sections regarding beekeeping. The records do not show that any beekeeping permits have ever been issued.

City staff recalls less than six requests in the past decade for beekeeping activities and less than that in code enforcement activities related to unapproved beekeeping activities.

Out of the nineteen jurisdictions, four agencies (including Lemon Grove) include existing standards for beekeeping activities in their regulations. National City prohibits beekeeping by ordinance and the City of San Diego established standards. Although the City of San Diego does not require permits, the hives must be registered with the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures.

Current San Diego County regulations require all beekeepers, small and large, to keep hives 100 feet from roads and 600 feet from homes. The County of San Diego is undergoing revisions because of concerns expressed by the San Diego County Beekeeping Society who claim County regulations make it difficult for beekeepers to prosper.

#### Public Speaker(s)

Michael Golden and Larry McGill spoke in favor of beekeeping in Lemon Grove.

Leticia Oliver and Marisol Olmos expressed concerns for beekeeping in their neighborhood.

After the discussion, the City Council City Council directed staff to return with a draft ordinance that provides comparisons between provisions in the County of San Diego and City of San Diego ordinances. City Council also directed staff to provide the County of San Diego with comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration recently circulated.

### **3. 2015 City Council Priorities**

Graham Mitchell reported that on April 7, 2015, the City Council discussed potential priorities established at its February 24, 2015 workshop. The purpose of this agenda item is to present the goals identified for each priority and recommended target completion dates.

During the discussion, the City Council reiterated the six priorities identified during the workshop:

- Economic Development,
- City Appearance,
- Infrastructure,
- Public Safety,
- General Plan, and
- Recreational Opportunities.

#### Public Speaker(s)

There were no requests from the public to speak.

After the discussion, the City Council City Council directed staff to return to the May 5 meeting with the priorities and goals that require budget considerations.

#### **4. San Diego Pooled Insurance Program Authority**

Mike James explained that on April 1, 1986, the City of Lemon Grove entered into a joint powers agreement with various other cities, entitled “San Diego County Cities Joint powers Agreement creating the San Diego Pooled Insurance Protection Authority (SANDPIPA) for Municipal Entities,” to provide for and administer a risk management and insurance program.

Since 2014, in light of the General Manager’s retirement announcement, the SANDPIPA Board of Directors (Board) has been discussing options for moving forward. Options may include backfilling the General Manager position, implementing a different management process, or dissolving the organization and each city will find a different risk management and insurance program.

On March 26, 2015, the SANDPIPA Board held a meeting to come to a final decision to continue with the SANDPIPA model or to move forward with the dissolution process with a planned run-off of all outstanding liability while also encouraging each individual member city to join the California State Association of Counties Excess Insurance Authority (CSAC) for excess liability coverage for a minimum one-year period. After receiving a presentation from the General Manager and the consulting team, the Board voted unanimously (12-0) to move forward with the dissolution process.

In light of the SANDPIPA’s Board decision, staff recommends that the City rescind its notice of intent to withdraw from SANDPIPA and enter into agreement CSAC as the City’s excess liability insurance coverage provider. The change in excess liability insurance coverage does not negatively impact the level of service or coverage that the City will have in FY 2015/16. The City will continue to receive the same coverage (e.g. general liability, crime, cyber, pollution, and property). The only noticeable change that will occur is the City’s general liability self-insured retention which will reduce from \$125,000 to \$100,000. Staff anticipates that in FY 2015/16 there will be a nominal decrease in the City’s annual premium. Furthermore, the City will likely begin to receive a portion of its share of equity in the form of dividends during the dissolution process. It is also important to note that the SANDPIPA Board Council recommended two amendments to the SANDPIPA by-laws that were created to protect each member’s right to its share of equity.

Based on the responses received, staff will return to the City Council with a recommendation for approval that may or may not include continuing with CSAC as its excess insurance liability coverage provider beyond the initial one-year term.

#### Public Speaker(s)

There were no requests from the public to speak.

**Action: Motion by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to adopt the resolution passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Sessom, Gastil, Jones, Mendoza, Vasquez**

**Resolution No. 2015 – 3327:** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California Providing its Written Authorization to the Dissolution of the San Diego Pooled Insurance Program Authority

## **City Council Oral Comments and Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City. (GC 53232.3 (d))**

Councilmember Jones toured the Padre Dam Advanced Water Purification Facility and attended an East County of Chamber round table and the grand opening of an independent pharmacy in Lemon Grove.

Councilmember Mendoza attended the Citizens of Courage Awards Luncheon and reported that H.O.P.E. provided a presentation during a recent Soroptimist meeting.

Councilmember Gastil attended a MTS meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Vasquez reported on recent Heartland Fire Training Authority, League of California Cities, and City County Reinvestment Task Force meetings. She attended the Citizens of Courage Awards Luncheon and Women Incorporated 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Mayor Sessom attended a League of California Cities Executive committee luncheon and reported that she resigned as Chair of SANDAG's Public Safety committee.

### **City Manager and Department Director Reports**

Mike James reported on upcoming City clean-up events.

Lt. May reported that Lemon Grove has experienced a reduction in crime and added that the District Attorney's office will be prosecuting those who scavenge items to be recycled.

### **Closed Session**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators  
Agency Designated Representative: Graham Mitchell, City Manager  
Employee Organization: Local 2728 of the International Association of Firefighters

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: City Manager

Closed Session Report: No reportable action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Housing Authority, Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and the Lemon Grove Successor Agency, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*Susan Garcia*

---

Susan Garcia, City Clerk